

would have cost the American taxpayers \$260 million. Yet, even with the increase, interest rates on price support loans would remain below commercial rates. Mr. President, this Congress has been dedicated to efforts to reduce the U.S. budget deficit. The price tag on Mr. HARKIN's amendment, coupled with the fact that the loan rates are lower than commercial rates, even with the 1 percent increase, lead me to oppose Mr. HARKIN's amendment which failed by a vote of 37 to 59.

Senator HARKIN offered a second amendment which would have reinstated the Farmer Owned Grain Reserve. Under this program, which is no longer in existence, the Federal Government paid grain farmers for grain put in storage. This created a grain surplus which depressed prices. Farmers I have talked to in Michigan are opposed to the grain reserve—they understand that farmers cannot store themselves into prosperity. This amendment would have been out of place in a farm bill which attempts to have farmers produce for the market instead of for the Government. Along with 60 of my colleagues, I opposed this amendment.

Senator SANTORUM who has been a strong, consistent opponent of our outdated, feudalistic peanut program, offered an amendment which would have made more drastic changes to the peanut program than were included in the bill. Unfortunately, a majority of Members of the Senate voted to table the amendment thereby effectively killing it. I voted against tabling the amendment because I believe we should have had an opportunity to support further changes in the peanut program. Senator SANTORUM's amendment would have phased out the quota system which was established during the depression to guarantee a high price for peanut producers. In order to do this, the Government issued quotas. Only the holders of these quotas would be allowed to grow peanuts. The quota holders are now selling the right to grow peanuts at extremely high prices which increases the price of peanuts to the consumer. Under the peanut program, the Government dictates who has the right to grow peanuts and the amount they are allowed to grow. Mr. President, I voted against the motion to table the Santorum amendment and believe that we should go further than the bill which passed to eliminate the peanut quota system.

I was pleased to vote with 60 of my colleagues in opposition to the Gregg amendment which would have eliminated the new sugar provisions from the farm bill. Senator GREGG's amendment would have left the sugar program as it is today in the hopes of eliminating the program completely when it expires in 1997.

Mr. President, the sugar program is different than many other agriculture programs in that it is necessary to keep a trade balance with other countries. Sugar is highly subsidized in other countries, allowing the producers

to dump their excess sugar on the world market at very low prices. Eliminating our sugar program completely would give our sugar producers—some of the best producers in the world—a trade disadvantage in the world market. Unilateral elimination of our sugar program would put the most efficient sugar producers in the world at a competitive disadvantage to other producers. Furthermore, the notion that other countries would follow our lead and eliminate their support programs on their own is ridiculous.

Mr. President, I have introduced legislation which would completely eliminate the U.S. agricultural price support and production adjustment programs for sugar contingent upon a GATT agreement which would eliminate export subsidies and price supports in other countries. While I firmly believe that the free market should be allowed to work, it will not work if the most efficient producers are put at a competitive disadvantage. As I have said in the past, I will continue to fight diligently on the side of free trade. I will continue to work to eliminate export subsidies and other price supports worldwide so that we may eventually achieve true free trade.

Senator DORGAN offered an amendment which would have mandated that in order to receive Government payments, farmers must grow program crops. While on the surface this appears to be a reasonable amendment, it flies in the face of the Freedom to Farm provisions. Through Freedom to Farm, over the next 7 years, farmers who have received payments in 3 of the past 5 years will receive guaranteed payments—regardless of how they use their acreage. After 7 years, however, the payments will stop. Over the 7 years during which payments will be provided, farmers are expected to transition from producing for the Government to producing for the marketplace. For the Government to dictate—in any way—how the farmers are to use their land would be counterproductive and would serve only to make it more difficult for us to accomplish free market agriculture. For these reasons, I did not support Senator DORGAN's amendment which failed in a 48 to 48 vote.

Mr. President, I am pleased that both the House and Senate were able to pass farm bills. I am hopeful that the conferees will act quickly to finalize this legislation so that America's farmers can begin to plan for the upcoming season and grow for the market. ●

AMERICA NEEDS TO REVITALIZE WORK PHILOSOPHY

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the most impressive executives in America today is Hugh Price, executive director of the National Urban League.

His commonsense approach to our needs is appreciated. One of the things he has been stressing over and over is the need to have jobs for people.

As I have said so frequently on the floor of the Senate, welfare reform

without jobs is public relations and not welfare reform.

Recently he had a commentary in the Chicago Defender on this question of jobs which I ask to be printed in full in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Chicago Defender, Feb. 26, 1996]

AMERICA NEEDS TO REVITALIZE WORK PHILOSOPHY

(By Hugh B. Price)

The widening gap between rich and poor in America is threatening our democracy. Workers are being laid off by the thousands, companies are downsizing, families are falling apart and the ranks of the poor and homeless seem to be growing.

Yet experts tell us the economy is on the upswing.

Certainly, good things are happening. Many cities are upgrading their "quality of life industries" by revitalizing their business districts and neighborhoods, building new sports stadiums, museums and sparkling restaurant districts. But in those and in so many urban centers, the poor, the unemployed and the homeless can't afford to use those facilities.

When you see them there, they're often begging or sleeping in doorways. That's not supposed to happen in America.

From what I've seen in traveling through dozens of cities, the plight of the poor is in stark contrast to economists' claims that inflation is leveling, that interest rates have fallen and that unemployment is declining. Americans are justifiably worried and skeptical about their future. Cities define civilizations. Vibrant cities boost our morale; decaying and dangerous cities depress us and scare off tourists.

If the poor, the homeless and the have-nots have no role in the rebirth of our cities, their welcome revival efforts won't reach their fullest potential. Government policymakers, business leaders and economists must devise a work-based system of self-reliance that lifts the urban poor out of poverty and allows them to support their families with dignity. Of course, such planning must include education and training in current and new skills.

Job creation programs must be established for employable but unemployed people in communities where there simply are not enough jobs to go around.

The approach must be holistic, because while it's one thing to instill potential workers with proper work skills, it's another thing to inculcate workers with the job know-how that employers require, such as punctuality, politeness and reliability.

Here are a few examples of new initiatives some of our urban league affiliates have undertaken:

In Detroit, plans are underway to establish an Employment Training and Education Center that will provide GED certification and computer training courses. Instruction in occupational, employability, entrepreneurship and customer service skills will be offered, along with an automated job search system and a day-care facility.

In Los Angeles, the Urban League and Toyota are partners in operating a modern training facility that will enable residents from the South Central community to learn all facets of automobile servicing and repair.

If our cities and our society are to prosper, if we are to continue to be the leader of the industrialized world, we must reverse socially corrosive economic trends that undermine public confidence.

America urgently needs to reorganize its employment and income policies so that the 21st century will be the century when, once